



Join Us In Measuring Progress

A Monthly
Assessment Newsletter
May 2004

Test Coordinators Deserve a Big Thank You

Thanks to test coordinators for their continuing great work on the administration of the statewide assessments. In addition to scheduling and training, test coordinators are responsible to inventory and ship materials to the testing contractors. Congratulations for meeting deadlines.



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Important Summer Data Review

For both the Iowa Tests and the CRT, data will be available for review and correction during the summer. These will be the final opportunities for systems to examine test results before final reports and release. Before the summer vacation, please determine who will review the data for your system and provide the passwords and instructions to your designated reviewers.

- Iowa Test (NRT) results for your system and schools
- CRT demographic information reported by systems

MontCAS, Tentative Testing Windows for Spring 2005

In the April *JUMP*, tentative testing windows for the Iowa Tests and the CRT were included. Since the publication of the tentative schedule, OPI has received requests for the MontCAS, Phase 2 (the CRT) window to precede the MontCAS, Phase 1 (the Iowas) window.

Below are two options for the Spring 2005 testing windows:

Option A

Phase 1, NRT—the Iowa Tests: March 7 - March 25, 2005

Phase 2, the CRT: March 21 - April 13, 2005

In this option,

- The Iowa Tests are administered first within a three-week window.
- The CRT Tests are administered second within a three and one-half week window.
- The Iowa Tests window and the CRT window overlap each other the week of March 21 - March 25.

MontCAS, Tentative Testing Windows for Spring 2005 (cont.)

Option B

Phase 2, the CRT: March 7 - March 30, 2005

Phase 1, the Iowa Tests: March 23 - April 13, 2005

In this option,

- The CRT Tests are administered first within a three and one-half week window.
- The Iowa Tests are administered second within a three-week window.
- The CRT window and the Iowa Tests window overlap each other March 23 - March 30.

The Office of Public Instruction needs your input in making this decision. A survey with the options is online for system test coordinators to complete—<http://www.opi.state.mt.us/regforms/testwindow/>.

NOTE: Test coordinators will need to input the school system number as part of the required information for the survey. At the online survey site is a list of school system numbers. That number can also be found in the *Directory of Montana Schools* next to the system name with the abbreviation Ss before it.

All responses must be submitted by **June 5, 2005**.

MontCAS, Phase 1, the Iowa Tests

The Future of the Iowa Tests

- ✓ **Spring of 2005:** MontCAS, Phase 1, the Iowas, will be administered in grades 4, 8, and 11 in five subjects as required by ARM.
- ✓ **Subsequent years:** The Board of Public Education is continuing to research its options for MontCAS, Phase 1 in 2005-06 and 2006-07.

2004 Iowa Test Data Online

The Office of Public Instruction will place disaggregated data online for all schools and systems. Before the data is made public, school and system personnel will have time to review the data on a secure site. To access that secure site, schools and systems will need a user name and password. These user names and passwords will be mailed to authorized representatives the week of June 14.

Before summer vacation, please determine who will review the data. Below are the dates for data review. More details will be included with the user names and passwords in the June mailing.

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|-----------------|---|
| Week of June 14 | Authorized representatives will receive user name and password for the OPI IRIS system. |
| July 15-26 | Systems/schools review data on secure site and contact OPI with questions. The user name and password (received the week of June 14) provide access to the secure site. |
| August 6 | OPI verifies changes and notifies systems/schools. |
| September 9-10 | Data is reported to Board of Public Education. |
| September 10 | Data is made public on OPI's website. |

MontCAS, Phase 2—The Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT)

CRT Reporting 2004

Preparing to Report CRT Results

➤ Benchmarking—May 2004

- In early May, a team of Montana educators traveled to Measured Progress' headquarters in New Hampshire to work with assessment specialists in defining benchmarks for the Montana CRT results. Part of the Montana team's task was to review actual responses from Montana students and choose model papers for each of the ratings on the rubric for the constructed response items. Thanks to these teachers and to their school systems for lending their time, effort and expertise to this important process.



Team members from left to right are: Jim Vennes, Great Falls; Luke Laslovich, Missoula; Brenda Johnston, Browning; Jen Schwedler, Bozeman; Lori Buckles, Wyola; and Judy McKay, Libby.

➤ Standard Setting—June 2004

- [Click here for a glossary of standard setting vocabulary](#)
- Setting cut scores for proficiency levels of Novice, Nearing Proficiency, Proficient, and Advanced

➤ Sample Reports—reports to districts and schools—June 2004

- Samples of the printed reports which include reports for parents and class, school, and district summaries
- Online by the end of June

➤ Technical Advisory Committee Recommendation (TAC)—July 2004

- Results of standard setting will be presented to the TAC
- The TAC will review and make recommendation to OPI
- OPI will review the recommendation

➤ Reports to Systems/Schools

June 4	System test coordinators receive envelope from Measured Progress with password for reviewing demographic data.	<i>NOTE:</i> This is not the same password as the one sent by OPI for accessing IRIS and the secure site on OPI's webpage.
Week of June 9 - July 15	Systems review demographic data online and notify Measured Progress of changes. Details will be in the June 4 mailing.	This is an extremely important phase of data reporting. To avoid incorrect demographic data caused by system omissions or errors as bubbled in the student response booklets, systems have the opportunity to review their demographic data before results are reported to systems, schools, and the state.
Week of September 13 (Tentative)	METNET video conference:	"Understanding and Using the CRT Results"
September 21-22	Systems/schools receive printed and electronic results.	

Standard Setting Participants Selected

Thank you to Montana educators for so enthusiastically applying to participate in standard setting for the CRT and the CRT-Alternate. Because of the numerous applications, we have a group of educators representative of the Montana population and regions. Notification letters were sent to all applicants the week of May 17.

CRT Procedures and Materials— How to Improve?

To plan for the Spring 2005 administration of the criterion-referenced test (CRT) and the CRT-Alternate, the Montana Office of Public Instruction and Measured Progress request input from test coordinators about testing logistics such as training, materials, instructions, and support. Online is a questionnaire—<http://www.opi.state.mt.us/regforms/testeval/>. The results will be used to evaluate and revise procedures and materials. Test coordinators, please complete and submit the questionnaire online by **June 15, 2004**.

CRT-Alternate Revision and Development Workshops

As part of the MEA-MFT Educators Conference in October of 2004, the Office of Public Instruction and Measured Progress will conduct CRT-Alternate Assessment Workshops. On Wednesday, October 20, educators will consider and make revisions to the alternate assessments for grades 4, 8, and 10 in reading and math. On Thursday evening, October 21, Friday, October 22 and Saturday, October 23, educators will develop alternate assessments for grades 3 and 5-7 in reading and math.

Other Information

NAEP

The 2005 testing window for National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) testing in grades four and eight reading, math, and science is January 24 - March 5. A sample of Montana students will be tested. If you have questions, please contact Donna O'Neill, the OPI NAEP Coordinator: doneill@state.mt.us or (406) 444-0793.



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